225.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.

The Shepherds worship Christ.

The Circumcision.

Herod's Cruelty.

Christ tempted by Satan in the Wilderness.

The Marriage in Cana.

The Birth of Christ.

The Wise Men's Offering.

Joseph's Flight into Egypt.

Christ baptized by John the Baptist.

Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem.

Stephen stoned.

A COPY of VERSES, humbly presented to all my worthy MASTERS and MISTRESSES,

Of Grosvenor-Street Ward, in the Parish of St. George, Hanover-Square,

By JAMES PIPER, Beadle and Bellman, for the Year 1791.

1812. PROLOGUE.

WITHIN this Sheet, great Sirs, expect to find,
No high and lofty Strains, no Wit refin'd:
But could my drooping Muse aspire so high,
As the whole Throng of Poets to outvie,
In Heliconian Strains then would I raise
My Masters glorious and immortal Praise.
Accept my Lines then, and remember still,
Your Bellman serves you with a right good Will.

1808. On ST. MICHAEL.

THIS goodly Saint, from Heav'n's amazing Height,
Plung'd Lucifer, amidst th' Abyss of Night;
From Heav'n he cast him Head-long down to Hell,
Doom'd with his dev'lish Train in Chains to dwell.
An Act so impious History can't record,
To turn a Traitor to the eternal Lord!
Ye Mortals hence, your Fate in Emblem see,
Such must the End of curst Ambition be.

1812. On ST. LUKE.

TO paint his Master's Worth, he took Delight,
And shew'd, to sinful Man, the Road to right:
Unaw'd, by Pow'r, his holy Truths he taught,
And thro' Preaching, many unto Jesus brought;
Who feeling, wanting Christ, was wanting All,
They joyfully obey'd the heav'nly Call;—
Attention gave unto his pious Voice,
And eagerly embrac'd the better Choice.

1817. On ST. ANDREW.

THIS pious Saint, push'd on by holy Zeal,
Often he strove Christ's Doctrine to reveal;
With heav'nly Thoughts he always was inspir'd,
And with eternal Joys was ever fir'd;
Preach'd up to Sinners the great Charms of Heav'n,
And the Reward for true Repentance giv'n:
When Death him seiz'd, he glory'd in his Chains,
And with undaunted Courage brav'd his Pains.

1814. On ST. THOMAS.

ST. Thomas, he with Sinners always strove,
And did with pious Zeal Christ's Doctrines prove;
But Want of Faith in him was a great Stain,
And gave this holy Saint the utmost Pain;
At last convinc'd, he, with true Sorrow, prays,
And sings, with earnest Joy, his Maker's Praise.
Then begg'd that God would grant him some Relief,
And pardon his great Fault of Unbelief.

1808. On CHRISTMAS EVE.

WITH what Exactness now the cleanly Lass,
Displays her glitt'ring Pewter and her Brass,
Bedeck'd with Holly, Bays, and Ivy green,
To charm the Hearts of those by whom it's seen.
And soon as e'er the joyful Morn does rise,
The industrious Maid prepares her Christmas Pies;
Then spits her Beef and Turkies for to roast,
And sprightly Youths rejoice o'er Ale and Toast.

1802 On CHRISTMAS DAY.

HAIL to this happy and most glorious Morn,
On which our Lord and Sav'our Christ was born!
The wond'ring Angels, with united Voice,
Call on us drowsy Mortals to rejoice;
For the immortal God to Earth's come down,
That mortal Man might gain a heav'nly Crown;
To cancel all that e'er was done amiss,
And make Men Heirs to everlasting Bliss.

1802 On ST. STEPHEN.

WHEN Persecution first began to spread,
St. Stephen was to Execution led;
He was the first the cruel Trial made,
With Courage bold, and not the least afraid;
Tho' ston'd to Death, he for them all did pray,
That Heav'n the Charge wou'd not upon them lay:
His pious Soul to those blest Mansions flew,
Where open were his Suff'rings for to view.

1813. On ST. JOHN.

ST. John, like Christ, of Courage meek and mild,
And so was Christ's belov'd Disciple stil'd;
He often leant upon his Saviour's Breast,
A Favour never granted to the rest.
Tho' cruel Wretches oft-times us'd him ill,
And thought in boiling Oil this Saint to kill;
But all in vain, tho' they with Rage were fir'd,
To Patmos Isle he went, and there expir'd.

1813. On INNOCENTS DAY.

THE Horrors of this Day, oh, who can bear!
When Mothers for their Children raving were!
Torn from their Arms a thousand Infants bled,
But God be prais'd, the heav'nly Babe was fled,
By which he escap'd the cruel Tyrant's Rage,
That neither Tears nor Prayers could e'er assuage:
'Twas all in vain from Herod's Power to fly,
For he decreed that every Male should die.

1814. On NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THUS Time moves swiftly, and it will not stay;
But hastens forward to the Judgment Day.
The New Year's come, the old Year now is past;
This Year we see; but this may be the last.
Examine then your State: Oh, seek to know
If Jesus call'd you, would you gladly go,
And meet him in the Air? for this may be
The Day which he intends to call for thee.

1814. On TWELFTH DAY.

THE Eastern Sages on this happy Day,
To seek our Saviour out, pursu'd their Way:
O'er Hills and barren Plains they journey'd far,
And walk'd with Joy, directed by a Star.
In Mem'ry of this Day, ye sprightly Fair,
Your icy Cakes and sparkling Ale prepare;
And when for King and Queen you draw your Lot,
May not too fickle Fortune place a Slut.

1814. On the KING and QUEEN.

COULD I, ye Royal Pair, my Genius raise,
To find out Words sufficient for your Praise,
With high and lofty Thoughts my Verse should shine,
To paint that Pair in whom all Virtues join.
A Pair thus blest in one another's Love,
Is a true Emblem of the Just above;
And as in mutual Joys your Days you spend,
May you partake those Joys which know no End.

1806. To my MASTERS.

MY worthy Sirs, may Heaven point out a Pray'r,
Great as your Love, of your peculiar Care;
All Things that may disturb you while you sleep,
I will you all in harmless Safety keep;
Dangers that I with Trouble may go thro',
Dangers that may require Applause from you;
For to you all is my just Homage sent,
Wishing Health with Happiness and Content.

1806. To my MISTRESSES.

MY Muse in softest Lays designs to sing,
'Tis your great Goodness gives her Fancy wing,
Excites the Mind, and, with the utmost Joy,
Does his fine Gifts exceedingly employ.
What is't that Man would willingly not do,
When they are blest with Mistresses like you?
Who do at Christmas Time most gay appear,
To help their Bellman to some dainty Fare.

To the YOUNG MEN.

TO you, Young Men, I now this Precept give,
If you would happy be, sedately live:
No Pleasures innocent do I condemn;
But lay, be sure, a just Restraint on them:
For Mirth, tho' lawful, may abused be,
And in short Time become Iniquity,
The Things allow'd, that if ill-used, they
Will Witness be at the Great Judgment Day.

1814. To the YOUNG MAIDS.

GLORY not in your Beauty, pretty Maid,
The finest Flower is most apt to fade;
Then do not thus your youthful Days misuse,
Nor a good Offer scornfully refuse:
Yet still beware on whom your Favors smile,
Lest Man, deceitful Man, should you beguile:
If Virtue be your Pilot, never fear,
She to the Port of Bliss will quickly steer.

1815 On CRISPIN.

THIS joyful Day your Patron he does claim,
To celebrate the Memory of his Name.
Are any of the Craft so full of Care,
They'll not a Day for Royal Crispin spare?
For shame, ye Crispins, let it not be said,
You did so much Dishonour to your Trade;
But drink full Bumpers to that princely Name,
Whose Mem'ry gives you all immortal Fame.

1814 On CHARITY SCHOOLS.

ON Vanities let others Wealth disburse,
And all their Vanities hereafter curse:
What giv'n in Charity will ne'er be found
To bring Repentance, or the Conscience wound.
How noble 'tis to train our helpless Youth
To Piety, to Knowledge, and to Truth!
To teach them early to industrious Toil,
To grace in Times to come Britannia's Isle.

The BELLMAN'S PRAYER.

MAY Heav'n our daily Actions ever guide,
That we from Wickedness may turn aside.
May we no Feuds encourage or create,
Nor cause no Broils e'er to disturb the State;
But to each other always be a Friend,
And willingly our kind Assistance lend.
Bless my good Masters, and their virtuous Fair,
This is my Wish as well as hearty Prayer.

EPILOGUE.

WITH mighty Labour and a Rack of Thought,
The Muse her Task has to a Period brought.
In it no lofty Thoughts or Beauties shine,
But many Errors croud in every Line.
Such as it is, to you I humbly send,
Hoping you'll be its Patron and its Friend;
And let your kind Acceptance of it be,
Another Instance of your Love to me.

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Where Club Orders, Catalogues, Tradesmen's Cards, and Shop Bills, are neatly printed, at the most reasonable Rates, and on the shortest Notice.

The Lord's Supper.

Judas betrays Christ.

Peter denies Christ.

Christ's Crucifixion.

The Resurrection.

The Ascension.